



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Sequoia & Kings Canyon
National Parks

47050 Generals Highway
Three Rivers, CA 93271

559 565-3341 phone
559 565-3730 fax

Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks News Release

For Immediate Release –August 19, 2013
Deb Schweizer (559) 565-3703

Lightning Storms Start New Fires in Parks

Three new lightning fires started in the parks last evening after a series of storms passed over the parks.

The Hotel Creek Fire is burning low on the cliffs north of Cedar in Kings Canyon National Park. It is within the 2005 Comb Fire and is burning in a mixture of brush and conifer. Because of its proximity to Cedar Grove and high fire danger, this fire is being suppressed. It is approximately 10 acres. The Hotel Creek Trail is closed from the trailhead at Cedar Lane and from the Cedar Grove Pack Station to the Lewis Creek Trail, including the spur to the Cedar Grove Overlook.

The Cedar Grove Fire is on the valley floor of Cedar Grove near employee housing. It has been contained at 1/10 of an acre. Crews will continue to patrol this fire.

The Chagoopa Fire, on the Chagoopa Plateau in Sequoia National Park, and is estimated at ¼ acre. This fire is in the wilderness and there are no threats to life or property. It remains unstaffed until the higher priority, front-country fires are contained.

The Hockett Fire, started by lightning on July 23, is burning in red fir and lodgepole at 8,500 feet. It is 35 acres and crews are containing this fire along pre-planned lines to prevent spread into lower elevation and higher complexity fuels.

The trail leading from the Hockett Meadow Ranger Station to Evelyn Lake and Cahoon Rock is closed for firefighter and public safety.

More lightning is in the forecast. The parks will conduct reconnaissance flights over the next several days looking for “sleeper” fires. **These fires may not be detected right after a storm.** Precipitation or cooler weather may keep these fires latent for several days.

-- nps--